

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNGA, EGEN, AORG, FR
SUBJECT: UN RESTRUCTURING: CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRENCH

1. ON MORNING OF NOVEMBER 9, AMBASSADORS LEONARD AND WELLS AND MISOFF MET WITH FRENCH PERMREP LEPRETTE AND COUNSELLOR BAUCHARD TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE CURRENT UN RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE, IN PARTICULAR THE POSSIBLE CREATION OF A DIRECTOR GENERAL POST.

2. AMBASSADOR LEONARD OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY EMPHASIZING THE GENUINE USG COMMITMENT TO EFFECTING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE UN SYSTEM AND THUS TO ACHIEVING POSITIVE RESULTS IN THE CURRENT RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE. WE FELT THAT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY RESULTS WERE POSSIBLE BUT THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE G-77 ON ISSUES OF IMPORT TO THEM. AMBASSADOR LEONARD SAID THAT WE WERE GREATLY IMPRESSED BY RIPERT (FRENCH CANDIDATE-DESIGNATE FOR UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL OF ESA) AND WERE SEEKING FINAL RESULTS WHICH WOULD ATTRACT A PERSON OF HIS CALIBER.

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3. AMBASSADOR LEONARD SAID THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AND OTHERS AND FELT THAT THE FOLLOWING MIGHT BE A BASIS FOR AN ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL PROBLEM:

(A) TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF THE ESA USYG BY (I) SPLITTING

OFF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND THUS PERMITTING THE USYG TO FUNCTION AS A SYSTEMWIDE CRITIC RATHER THAN COMPETITOR, AND (II) ESTABLISHING WITHIN ESA A SYSTEMWIDE PROGRAMMING CAPABILITY.

(B) SEEKING G-77 AGREEMENT TO LEAVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DG POST TO THE SYG AND TO LOCATE THE POSITION IN THE SYG'S OFFICE WITH A SMALL STAFF AND WITH A BASIC MANDATE IN TERMS OF ADVISING THE SYG. CLEARLY THE G-77 WOULD NEED ASSURANCES (EITHER IN THE TEXT OR OTHERWISE) THAT THE SYG WOULD IN FACT ACT--TO ESTABLISH SUCH POSITION AND TO DELEGTE MEANINGFUL RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE INCUMBENT.

4. AMBASSADOR LEONARD CONCLUDED HIS PRESENTATION BY NOTING OUR FEAR THAT SHOULD THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE STALEMATE, A SMALL GROUP WITHIN THE G-77 WILL PUSH FOR A SEPARATE POLITICAL DECISION ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL WHICH, DESPITE SOME MISGIVINGS WITHIN THE G-77, WOULD BE APPROVED. HE SAID THAT IT WAS URGENT THAT WE COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS PROBLEM, SUGGESTED THAT THE FRENCH MIGHT WISH TO INDICATE TO THE G-77 THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE, AND PROMISED THAT WE DID NOT WISH TO MOVE ON THIS QUESTION IN A WAY WHICH WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE FRENCH OR OUR OTHER ALLIES.

5. IN RESPONSE, AMBASSADOR LEPRETTE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE SPIRIT IN WHICH WE WERE ACTING. HE SAID
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THAT HIS PRIMARY CONCERN WAS IN PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF RIPERT AND THAT HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH HIM. THE CRITICAL ISSUE WOULD BE THE MANDATE OF THE ESA USYG AND OF THE PROPOSED DIRECTOR GENERAL.

6. COUNSELLOR BAUCHARD NOTED THAT THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE APPEARED TO HAVE COME TO AN IMPASSE AND OPINED THAT NO ACTION COULD BE TAKEN THIS YEAR. AMBASSADOR WELLS SAID THAT THE G-77 AMBASSADORS HAD TAKEN THE ISSUE IN HAND AND HAD SCHEDULED MEETINGS OVER THE NEXT WEEK WITH A VIEW TO COMING UP WITH ACCEPTABLE AND POSITIVE RESULTS.

7. AMBASSADORS LEONARD AND LEPRETTE AGREED TO STAY IN TOUCH ON THIS QUESTION.
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